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California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

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SEMI-ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT – WESTSIDE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has reviewed the Semi-Annual Monitoring Report (SAMR) for the Westside San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (Coalition), which was submitted on 31 December 2005. This SAMR was submitted by the Coalition to meet the conditions of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Order No. R5-2003-0826 and Order No. R5-2005-0833 for Coalitions under Resolution No. R5-2003-0105.

The Water Board would like to recognize the effort that is being put forth by the Coalition in order to provide a thorough approach to compliance with the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program. Timely submittal of the monitoring reports, active participation in Technical Issues Committee, and prompt responses to inquiries are also invaluable. We are confident that continuation of this level of collaboration will help protect water quality and ensure success for the Coalition approach being utilized in the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program.

The attached SAMR review summary includes comments, suggestions and clarifications of requirements that are part of the MRP, many of which have already been provided to the Coalition in communications with Central Valley Water Board staff. Please continue to work with John Swanson to address all of the Items described in the attached memorandum. The more critical items are summarized below:

- Ensure that all analyses required for tributaries to CWA303d listed waterbodies takes place in future monitoring, as described in Item 19 of attached memorandum.

California Environmental Protection Agency

- Ensure that all monitoring identified in the Coalition's MRP Plan does take place. Any modifications to the coalition MRP Plan, including changes in sample site locations or changes in list of monitoring parameters, are submitted as a revision to the existing MRP Plan, for approval by the Executive Officer. See Items 8 and 13 of attached memorandum.
- Conduct a re-sample whenever there is a toxicity test that shows any reported statistical difference from the laboratory control. See Item 18 of attached memorandum.
- Add an appropriate monitoring site at Salt Slough/Mud Slough. See Item 22 of attached memorandum.

The monitoring reports submitted in April and December 2005 confirm that there are areas within the Coalition boundaries that warrant management practice (MP) implementation and continued monitoring to measure the effectiveness of the MPs. Data from the following waterbodies are among those that show recognizable water quality issues:

Hospital Creek	Orestimba Creek
Ingram Creek	Newman Wasteway
Westley Wasteway	Mud Slough
Del Puerto Creek	Salt Slough
Ramona Lake	Los Banos Creek

The Coalition has recognized that there are specific areas within the Coalition boundaries that show chronic problems with toxicity, pesticides, and sediment by acknowledging the need to prepare a Pesticide Management Strategy and a Sediment Management Strategy. A commitment to prepare these strategies was made by the Coalition in a letter to the Central Valley Water Board on 8 March 2006.

The Central Valley Water Board concurs that this is the next approach that must be taken in order to address the ongoing water quality issues within the Coalition boundaries. At a minimum, the Coalition Management Strategy will need to include source identification, an MP implementation schedule to address exceedances, MP performance goals, waste-specific monitoring schedule, and identification of the participants that will implement the Management Strategy.

Please continue to prepare these strategies and submit them to the Central Valley Water Board by the **30 July 2006** date that was designated in the Coalition's letter.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Swanson at 916-464-4849, or jswanson@waterboards.ca.gov.

MARGIE LOPEZ READ
Senior Environmental Scientist

Enclosures: Staff Review of Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
Monitoring data summary table

Westside San Joaquin Valley
Drainage Authority

22 June 2006

MLR/w/irrigatedlands/coalitionsWestside/amrreview/December2005/final documents/CoverLetter150606

Bcc : Ms. Pamela C. Creedon
Mr. Bill Croyle
Mr. Ken Landau
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Russ Walls